GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3159
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared a scheme of scholarship for the students of Indian origin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the facilities proposed to be provided to them to study in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b) : Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) has implemented a Scheme, Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) from the academic year 2006-07. Under the Scheme, 100 admission-cum-scholarships are offered for technical and higher educational courses. The scholarship amount will cover the tuition fees partially. The Scheme is being implemented through M/s Educational Consultants India Limited (Ed.CIL), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. 23 developing countries with large number of Indian diaspora were included in the Scheme. The eligibility criteria under the SPDC is on merit and as per scores in the entrance examination conducted by Ed.CIL in Indian Missions abroad. 69 Students have joined in various institutions in India during the academic year 2006-2007. SPDC for the academic year 2007-2008 is being expanded to include 39 countries with Indian diaspora population of 20,000 and more. It is proposed to increase scholarship amount to cover the tuition fees to a substantial extent.